GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:904
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
OFFICIAL WAR HISTORY
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB;GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to make official war histories public;

(b) if so, the terms and reference of the committee;

(c) whether this step is follow up of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on national security;

(d) if so, the other recommendations given by the Group of Ministers in this regard;

(e) the number of recommendations out of them accepted and action taken thereon; and

(f) the details of recommendations still under examination?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:-

The Committee will review the histories of Indo-Pak War 1971, Indo-Pak War 1965, Conflict with China 1962 and History of Operation Pawan - IPKF in Sri Lanka, and related MOD/MEA files in the matter with a view to recommending or rejecting their publication for open sale. The Committee will have access to all the relevant MEA documents and all relevant documents of the MOD.

The Committee will submit its recommendations by December 31, 2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Group of Ministers (GOM) has also recommended that an official history of Kargil be written.

(e) All but for a couple of recommendations of GOM, have been accepted. The implementation of the recommendations of the GOM has already commenced.

(f) A decision on the GOM`s recommendation relating to the institution of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) would be taken after consultation with various political parties. A decision on the question of writing the official history of Kargil is in process.